The east elevation presents a gable, with three-light window of flowing tracery, and terminating in a cross; a floriated cross surmounts the gable, and an angle buttress flanks the south side: the door in wall is the entrance to the cloak room.

The south side consists of a gable to the infants' platform, in which is a two-light flowing window; on the top is a bell turret and bell. The door is covered with wrought iron scroll hinges and appropriate appendages, and around it is cut "Poyntington School, built A.D. MDCCCXLVIII.," and underneath on another member, "Holiness unto the Lord."

Internally the roof is open and boarded, and consists of rafter, collar, ties, hammer-pieces, and drop-rafters resting on plates: the windows are all hooded and splayed, and filled with diamond glass; the doors covered with wrought-iron scroll hinges, and scriptural sentences painted on walls. The roof is covered with old tiles, and surmounted by a crested ridge.

The cost of erection, including all the fittings, was within 250*l*.; the site was given, and most of the sculpture. The architect was Mr. R. J. Withers, of Sherborne, and the builder, Mr. Harris, of the same place.

This part of the county has for many years been in a wretchedly ignorant state as regards architectural knowledge, if we may judge from the various buildings erected; and it was only by a late movement as respects the beautiful Abbey Church, that a turn may fairly be said to have been effected. During the last year a better spirit seems to have sprung up, and is daily gaining rapid strides. The various clergy around seem to have wakened from their slumbers, and are one and all endeavouring to atone in some slight degree for former negligence. Churches, especially the chancels, are being restored, and village schools erected, in a very laudable manner.

THE FOUR O'CLOCK MOVEMENT.

Sir,—As on any subject of dispute you are always willing to hear both sides of the question, I trust, as you have found room for the letter of "A Young Builder," you will insert this communication from a Young Carpenter; as I fear lest the contents of the former may tend to disturb the present amicable and satisfactory arrangements. The privilege would at first cause some inconvenience to employers; but this was from the suddenness of the change, and not the principle of it. Employers had only to make their arrangements one hour and a half earlier, and then it was as easy to pay at four as half-past five. The bankers of the City (calculating men) find suspending their business at four o'clock on Saturdays to answer, why not builders? As regards the profit and loss in the matter, I believe the general adoption of the privilege, by allowing more time for the mental and moral improvement of workmen, and by diffusing a better feeling between employers and employed, is calculated in itself to amply repay employers.

"Y. B." calls the privilege "a gross imposition on the part of mechanics." Now, Sir, I appeal to all those liberal and respectable builders who granted it, and all those sober and intelligent workmen who asked for it, against this expression. He either does not remember, or is not aware of the day in September, 1847, when above 600 carpenters assembled in public, to pay a tribute of respect, by a vote of thanks, to their worthy employers who had granted the privilege. There never was a movement of the building trades conducted in a more conciliatory spirit, or a privilege granted with a better grace; it was lauded on all sides by the most influential portion of the press. The *Times*, The Builder, the *Morning Advertiser*, and weekly journals sent their representatives, and several builders honoured the meeting with their presence. The privilege was asked for and granted on the principle that the "interests of employers and employed are identical," and that, therefore, a good understanding ought to exist between them. And of this I do not yet despair. Were the privilege withdrawn, it would create a spirit of retaliation, injurious to employers and employed, and open a breach which would take many years to close. Your correspondent thinks it is not beneficial to workmen; but we have not had time to develop its benefits,—the privilege is little more than a twelvemonth old; give us time—give us encouragement. Many intelligent carpenters are labouring hard to regenerate the members of our trade—to diffuse a taste for drawing—to extinguish a taste for the pot-house, and repay with interest the paltry 9d. per week your correspondent complains of. In the face of the sinister wish that the privilege may be withdrawn, I have faith in the good sense of our Cubitts, our Bakers, our Pipers, and our Kelks. These gentlemen understand the interests of employers and employed; and though sometimes a part of our trade may err, let not their sins be visited on the majority.

One of the Delegates in the Four o'clock Movement.

Sir,—Your journal of the 11th inst. contains a letter from "A Young Builder," on the four o'clock movement, a subject of considerable importance, and one which has lately engrossed much attention among the building trades. When the subject was first broached, you earned the lasting gratitude of the working man by your praiseworthy endeavours in his favour, and I am sure it must now be very disheartening to you, to hear that the object which you assisted in gaining has been an injustice to both master and man. But though as such the "Young Builder" who last week addressed you would have you understand it, I think, if you will allow me, I can soon prove to the contrary.

I am in the employment of a competing builder, perhaps the largest in London, who readily and without hesitation gave his men the desired boon, and I really cannot see in what manner the system has worked badly for me as a workman. I must confess I do not, and cannot, understand how it is detrimental to my interests to be able to dress myself, and walk out comfortably on Saturday evening without being tired and disheartened by a hard day's labour. As to my employer, he knows his own interests, and I very much doubt that the system can be more disadvantageous to him than it is to me, or it would scarcely have been so readily adopted by one notable for his prudence and foresight.

The "Young Builder" observes that, "if quitting work at 4 o'clock on Saturdays was in the least degree beneficial to the workman, or at all consistent with common sense or justice, he would be the first to promote its general adoption, but a glance at the public-houses in the neighbourhood of the pay-tables of builders who allow it, will soon convince an observer to the contrary." This is the old jargon about the working classes not knowing how to take care of themselves. Were not public-houses as thronged on Saturdays under the old system as they are now? nay, were they not more so? I will tell the "Young Builder" where this evil has a fruitful source, and clearly show him that it is wholly independent of the 4 o'clock movement. Not long since I was for some time employed at a house in Marylebone, by a master who lived in Westminster. I myself resided in the city. On Saturdays I left work as usual at half-past five, and went to Westminster to be paid: when I arrived it was past six, and there were always many men before me. For an hour have I had to loiter about waiting the arrival of the clerk, and when he came, for nearly another hour have I had to wait my turn. Now, where could I go all this time? It was impossible to go home. I had been at work all day, and was hungry. It was winter time, and I was cold; consequently I was *forced* into the public-house, and many were like me. If all did not keep within the bounds of temperance and moderation, I think it was hardly a matter of wonder. This evil still exists, and to a large extent among "young builders," so let it not be a matter of surprise if, whether the men strike work at four or half-past five on *Saturdays*, the public-houses in the neighbourhood of such pay-tables should be more than usually thronged.

As to the system being beneficial, or at all consistent with common sense or justice, I will offer just a few words for the "Young Builder's" edification. Let the "Young Builder" put his hand to the mallet some fine Monday morning at six o'clock, after having walked for some half-hour previously to his place of employment, and continue at the work till half-past five in the evening; again on Tuesday, and every day till Saturday. Let him do this for some weeks, through rain and wind, through heat and cold, and then let him say how he likes it. Let him explain what desire, what heart he has for improvement or amusement: if, before, he was full of eager desire for mental culture, he will find himself, under the circumstances, benumbed, as it were, inwardly and outwardly: one feeling alone will pervade his mind, and that will be desire for rest. I will appeal to the secretary of the new (so-called) "Protection Society," or any other mason, whether this be not the case; and I will ask, is it too much to demand one day in the week on which the mind may soar a little above its grovelling and brute-like every-day existence? And what a day is Saturday to the working man! The precursor of his only holiday,—that only day which he can spend in the bosom of his family. Why, to make that holiday sweet, there are a thousand little preparations to be made, which none but working men can understand. And who will grudge him this short release from toil which he asks, that he may be enabled now and then to remember that he has a soul? Who can say he does not think it beneficial to let the workman have time to prepare himself for such a day. If the "Young Builder" means what he says, I am persuaded it only requires a little thought to make him adopt the system himself, and promote it as something highly beneficial.

An Old Mason.

PROTECTION OF PILES IN SEA-WATER.

Sir,—In your last number I observed a letter from Mr. Jackson, relative to the protection of piles in sea-water and of timber from ants. The letter contains some important particulars, but also *opinions* which, from the attention I have paid to the subject, I consider calculated to create an erroneous impression.

I quite agree with Mr. Jackson as to the *difficulty* of proving that any process for preserving timber had effectually withstood the "teredo navales" (I say nothing of the *white ant*). It would take a *long series of years* before any decisive *facts* could be obtained as to its efficacy in resisting that "calamitas navium."

My *own* opinion is that *no chemical* means will *effectually* prevent the ravages of the teredo, and I found this statement on what I know of the nature, character, and manner of its operations—facts which I have taken considerable pains to investigate.

Mr. Jackson questions the use of broad-headed nails as a means of protection: he states, "they lose their heads when rusted," and mentions the fact of his having seen timber which had been covered with such, but when taken up was quite destroyed. It is a dangerous thing to generalize from a simple fact like this; but whether the nails lose their heads *when rusted* is of small consequence (the only fear is they may lose them before); for that very rust hardens upon the pile and becomes a solid mass impenetrable to the worm. I can shew your correspondent specimens of scupper-nailed piles which have been under water from ten to fifteen years, and the wood quite sound, while both above and below the nailing on the pile the wood is perforated by myriads of the teredo and also the lymnoria. I have also many other proofs of the efficacy of scupper-nails in preserving timber; I do *not say* it is *always* successful, but it is the most perfect plan for preserving piles in sea-water, and one subject to fewer contingencies; whatever may have been the cause of the *decapitation* of the nails, it is evidently the exception and not the rule. The facts mentioned by Mr. Jackson relative to the effect produced on wood by the white ant prepared by several chemical processes are of the highest value, and would apparently shew that it is quite as destructive on the land as the teredo on the sea, and as doubtful if any but *mechanical* means will preserve from destruction the timber it inhabits.

Fulham. John Paton.

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